

Appl. No. 09/991,280
Amendment Dated January 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 16, 2003 (Paper No. 11)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above-identified patent application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Action mailed 16 October 2003 (Paper No. 11). Claims 1, 4-12 and 15 were pending. Claims 1, 6, 11 and 15 have been amended herein. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claims 4 and 5. The amendment of Claim 11 is supported at page 6, lines 2-7 and in Fig. 4 of the specification. The amendment of Claim 15 is supported at page 8, line 17-21 and in Figs. 6A and 6B of the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled without intending to abandon or to dedicate to the public any patentable subject matter. Accordingly, following entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1, 6-12 and 15 will be pending. As set forth more fully below, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,677,578 (hereinafter "Roos").

The present invention of amended claim 1 discloses a coupled member (H) that includes a stopper socket (11a), which is formed adjacent to a coupling hole (11) in the front surface without extending through the coupled member and an elastic sealing member (12) that includes a stopper (34), which projects from the elastic sealing member, the stopper being received in the stopper socket (11a). Therefore, when a male thread (23) is mated with a female thread (32A), the stopper socket (11a) and the stopper (34) prevent the elastic sealing member from rotating in the coupling hole (11) by a simple configuration.

Furthermore, the stopper socket (11a) is formed adjacent to the coupling hole (11) without extending through the coupled member (H). Thus, the stopper socket (11a) does not affect the seal of the coupling hole (11).

However, Roos does not disclose the stopper socket (11a) and the stopper (34) recited by Claim 1, as amended.

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The Examiner also rejects Claim 15 as anticipated by Roos. Claim 15, as amended, requires an elastic sealing member that includes a stopper for preventing the elastic sealing member from rotating when a mounting hole receives a fitting body. Because Roos does not disclose the stopper of the present invention, Claim 15 distinguishes over the teachings of Roos. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2 and 4-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Roos in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,212,796 (hereinafter "Neuschotz") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,886,019 (hereinafter "Davis").

As noted above with respect to the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Roos does not disclose the stopper socket and the stopper of the present invention. Similarly, Neuschotz does not disclose the stopper socket and stopper of the presently claimed invention and therefore does not overcome the problems of Roos. Thus, the combination of Roos and Neuschotz does not render the invention of pending Claim 2 obvious as it does not teach all of the limitations of pending Claim 2.

With respect to Claims 6-10, the Examiner cites Davis as showing that a plastic resin positive crankcase ventilation valve device is known in the art. Davis does not make up for the shortcomings of Roos and/or Neuschotz noted above. Thus, the combination of Roos, Neuschotz and Davis does not teach all of the limitations of Claims 6-10, as amended, and therefore does not render these claims obvious.

The Examiner has also rejected Claims 11 and 12 as being obvious over Davis in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,659,573 (hereinafter "Bennett"). The present invention includes a main body (13) of a flow control valve that has a pair of rotating portions (21) for rotating a fitting portion (18) when engaging the flow control valve with a coupling hole (11), and a hose connector (20) connected to the rotating portions (21) to connect a tubing hose (T). The rotating portions (21)

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are thin plates extending from opposite sides of the hose connector (20) and are used to position the tubing hose (T) when connecting the tubing hose (T) to the hose connector (20). Neither Davis nor Bennett disclose the pair of rotating portions (21) and the hose connector (20) of the presently claimed invention. Accordingly, Claims 11 and 12 are patentable over the combination of Davis and Bennett and Applicants respectively request that the Examiner's rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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